

# Spark Gap

Volume 24, Issue 11, November 2007 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Four Years*

## MARC Repeater Has Moved!



Photos of the repeater move by Jack Parker, W8ISH.

*The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur Radio Club  
P. O. Box 836  
Franklin, IN 46131  
[www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org)

Following several delays our new antenna was installed on the top of the new communications tower behind White River Township Fire Station #4. Station #4 is located on Olive Branch Road a block west of State Road 135. As of Friday

afternoon, November 2, 2007, the repeater was moved to that site and is currently operating on 7 watts. We are looking for base, mobile and especially HT reports from hams throughout the county. So far we've had reports from New Whiteland, Six Points Road & I-70 in Plainfield and from the IUPUI campus in downtown Indianapolis. The Sunday night net operated via the new location. MARC and our President Jack Parker, W8ISH, would like to thank our repeater move committee of Dave Daily, KB9LOT, Steve Carmean, K9DY, Jay Chrisman, AA9YP, and Bob LaGrange, N9SIU. And thanks to the Prez, Jack Parker, W8ISH. Special thanks go out to WRTFD deputy chief Scott Cassin for allowing us to occupy the top spot on their microwave tower. This is not the end of the story. We have other improvements coming. Stay tuned and we'll be listening for you on the 146.835. Remember...PL151.4.

73, Jack, W8ISH  
MARC Prez

### MARC Receives Grant

On Monday, October 29, 2007, MARC was notified that our grant application to the Johnson County Community Foundation, Inc. had been awarded \$3000 to support the replacement of the existing repeater system. Our thanks go out to the Foundation for providing us the means to improve our system and provide wider coverage to the county in times of need. This will be greatly evident during the next SKYWARN

activation for severe weather. Our thanks also go out to Bob LaGrange, N9SIU, for writing our grant proposal and submitting the grant application.

The repeater committee met on Saturday morning, November 3rd, to exchange ideas on additional improvements to our repeater

system. Currently we are researching costs for a new repeater, controller, duplexers, 4-bay dipole antenna and hardline. We would have to hire a tower crew to mount a new higher gain antenna. The grant has provided us the means to move the current repeater and expand our coverage in the county. We look forward to upgrading our system in the future by expanding into digital repeater communications.



*Check it out!*

## Vernon Gill, N9QBO, SK



It is with great sadness that we have to relay the news of the passing of longtime Mid-State Amateur Radio Club treasurer and lifetime member, Vernon Gill, N9QBO. Vernon passed away on Wednesday, October 31, 2007. Long known as "The Voice of Johnson County", Vern's steady inflection was once a fixture of our Sunday night nets. From his home

in Franklin, he would broadcast Amateur News Weekly and Newslines as well as take check-ins from as far away as Greensburg, Indiana. His voice could also be heard on Johnson County's other VHF repeater, the KN9E 145.11 MHz system, colloquially known as "The 511".

Vern also served as a longtime treasurer of the club and played an active role in deciding club policy and direction through his involvement with the club's executive committee. This club wouldn't be here today without his effort and dedication.

Some of Vern's other interests included the railroad (he was an avid train historian and a retired railroad employee) and computer technology. On the ham bands, he was a fixture on packet (including APRS), VHF/UHF, and SSTV. He was also a routine attendee at the supper gathering every week. He served in the Army for four years and was present at the invasion of Normandy. Although Vern caught a train bound for a better location, he left some pretty big shoes to fill back at the station. Have a safe journey, my friend. We'll miss you.

Matt Payne, KB9UJE

## Goblin Patrol

As darkness closed in on the annual Goblin Patrol Halloween night one of our own came up missing. Grant Black, KC9LGZ, disappeared from his appointed rounds for almost an hour during the evening. All attempts to find him or communicate with him failed. Three units re-deployed to the SR 44 area to find him. Grant called in after an hour and reported his radio and cell phone batteries had died.

Up to that time all six mobile units reported a quiet evening. Our mission was to cover interstate overpasses in Johnson County so no one pulled any tricks or dropped deadly treats on I-65 traffic.

Participating MARC Amateur Radio operators were Carol Osborne KC9CFK, JR Osborne KB9HSE, Steve Brown N9LC, Steve Carmean K9DY, Dave Daily KB9LOT, Brenda Halder KC9EBL and Grant Black KC9LGZ. Jack Parker W8ISH handled Net Control. As each operator checked in their auto license plate and description of the vehicle was recorded. That information was emailed directly to Johnson county sheriff dispatch in case someone reported a suspicious vehicle over the interstate.

Steve Brown, N9LC, working the southern part of the county, checked Ninevah to make sure they got their share of toilet paper. Steve reported that the Goblins did a good job. That tradition continues. And the tradition for the MARC Goblin Patrol continues. This was our 21st year. Our thanks to club VP Dave Daily KB9LOT for serving as liaison to the

### Officers

**President:**  
Jack Parker,  
W8ISH

**Vice President:**  
Dave Daily,  
KB9LOT

**Secretary:**  
Carol Osborne,  
KC9CFK

**Treasurer:**  
Steve Carmean,  
K9DY

**Repeater Trustee:**  
Jay Chrisman,  
AA9YP

**Spark Gap Editor:**  
Bob LaGrange,  
N9SIU

## Goblin Patrol cont.

Johnson county sheriff department. Following the close of Net, Johnson county sheriff's Enforcement Commander Major Randy Werden called Jack at Net Control to express his appreciation for a job well done.

-W8ISH

**Note:** Forrest "Tug" Sutton passed along his "job well done" for our participation in an e-mail to several members of the club. Tug noted that this was another great service MARC provides to the community. The Net was activated at 1800 hours on October 31, 2007 and secured at 2110 hours. No major or minor incidents were reported during that time. ■

## More repeater photos



## 2007 SKYWARN Recognition Day

The 2007 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2007.

(0000 - 2400 UTC) SKYWARN

Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates

the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During the day

SKYWARN operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world. It is estimated that around 100 NWS stations will participate in the event this year including the office at Indianapolis

International Airport in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Each NWS station will transmit on different frequencies at each site. The office in Indianapolis operate 20, 40, and 80 bands using phone operations. This is the ninth

consecutive year that the event has been held. The date is chosen by the NWS and the ARRL. A number of factors are taken into consideration when selecting the date.

This includes the possibility of real severe weather impacting the event, the availability of band width due to amateur radio contests, and work load issues during the year.

Earn a SKYWARN Recognition Day certificate by working just one NWS office.

Submit a list of the NWS stations you worked with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

SKYWARN Recognition Day

920 Armory Road

Goodland, KS 67735

You will receive an \* 1/2 x 11 inch certificate in January or February 2008. ■

**WA9RDF**

**Repeater**

**146.835/**

**146.235 MHz**

**151.4 Hz PL**

**Tone**

**Weekly Net**

***Every Sunday***

***at 7PM EST***

***Tune in to hear***

***the ARRL***

***Newsline!***

*The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors a weekly traffic and social net on our repeater. The net begins at 7:00 p.m. local time, and features local news, announcements, and NTS traffic, as well as rebroadcasts of Amateur Radio Newsline.*

## Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time.

This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills.

Newsline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby.

For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to

[netcontrol@midstatehams.org](mailto:netcontrol@midstatehams.org), and we will record your check-in!



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*Spark Gap*

# 2007 Schedule of Events

## Public Service Events and/or Educational/Testing Opportunities

### NOVEMBER 2007

#### 17 **MARC Meeting - 8 AM**

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

#### 17-18 **Ft. Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo**

Sponsored by the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society; Event held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and Exposition Center, Fort Wayne, IN

#### 24 **Evansville Hamfest**

Vanderburgh Co. 4-H Fairgrounds, Evansville, IN

### DECEMBER 2007

#### 15 **MARC Meeting - 8 AM**

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

### JANUARY 2007

#### 1 **MARC begins its TWENTY-FIFTH year!**

## Announcement

### **Linda Harshbarger, KC9GCH, Appointment**

Congratulations to Linda Harshbarger for being appointed Public Information Coordinator (PIC) for the Indiana Section of the ARRL. During an October meeting of the Indiana Radio Club Council several Indiana amateur radio club newsletters were passed around for review. The Spark Gap was highlighted as one of the best club newsletters. Indiana Section Director, Jim Sellers, K9ZBM, asked Linda to accept appointment to the position of Indiana Section PIC. As PIC, Linda will be responsible for sending out news releases covering Indiana Section amateur radio activities to print and broadcast media across the state.

### Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

**See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.**